United Nations

Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General calls last night's Security Council resolution on Somalia "historic"; Somali leaders express support for Council's decision in declaration adopted today in Addis Ababa.

+ Establishment of three new departments in economic and social field announced by Secretary-General; appointment of three Under-Secretaries-General, two Assistant Secretaries-General, and new Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme.

+ Secretary-General at Atlanta this weekend to attend conference on global development cooperation which he will co-chair with former United States President Jimmy Carter.

+ Secretary-General calls on Islamic Conference to support strategies authorized by Security Council to end conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Margaret Anstee, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, to visit Headquarters on 10 and 11 December, for consultations on peace process in that country.

+ Secretary-General, in message to International Conference on Nutrition in Rome tomorrow, calls for approach to malnutrition that encompasses peace, security and development.

+ Work of individuals is crucially important in building new structures of international relations, Secretary-General says in a message for International Volunteer Day tomorrow.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last night described the Security Council's resolution on Somalia as "an historic resolution" which would "reinforce the new role of the United Nations and help the Somali people". The comments were made to correspondents following the Council's decision to authorize the use of force to secure the deliveries of humanitarian aid to Somalia.

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Asked if the decision was "a model for viewing a post Cold War conflict", Mr. Boutros-Ghali replied that he hoped it would create a precedent. He said that while the first stage of the operation would concentrate on the security of the distribution of humanitarian aid to the starving Somalis, the second stage would be an effort to promote national reconciliation in that country.

In a related development, Somali traditional community leaders and political movements in that country have declared their support for the Council's decision yesterday to send humanitarian protection forces to Somalia to secure emergency relief assistance and the safety of all relief workers there.

In a declaration adopted today in Addis Ababa at the conclusion of the follow-up meeting to the 100-Day Action Programme for Somalia, Somali leaders said the existence of hostile political grouping was the main obstacle to a speedy political settlement in the country. They proposed the convening of a conference on National Reconciliation under the United Nations auspices and asked that the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Standing Committee for the Horn of Africa, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference take active part in that effort.

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According to an announcement made at Headquarters today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to establish three new Departments at the United Nations Secretariat in New York: The Department for Development, Support and Management Services, which will be headed by Ji Chaozhu (China); the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, to be headed by Nitin Desai (India); and the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, to be headed by Jean-Claude Milleron (France). The three appointments will be at the Under-Secretary-General level.

The Secretary-General has also appointed Ibrahima Fall (Senegal) as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Ms. Gertrude Mongella (Tanzania) as Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995. In addition, the Secretary-General has submitted to the General Assembly the nomination of Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell (Canada) for the post of Executive-Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will be attending a conference in Atlanta this weekend on global development cooperation. According to his Spokesman, Joe Sills, Mr. Boutros-Ghali will be co-chairing the conference with former United States President Jimmy Carter.

The Secretary-General will address the conference on Saturday morning. In the afternoon he will participate in the closing session and a press conference.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference to support the strategies adopted by the Security Council to end the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has invited the Conference to consider how to support the constitutional ideas offered by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia. The call was contained in a message read out by the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, at the extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 1 and 2 December.

The Secretary-General emphasized in his message that the Islamic Conference could do much to help ensure compliance with the sanctions regime against former Yugoslavia. Of special importance, he said, would be the Conference's reinforcement of efforts now under way to condemn and reverse "ethnic cleansing", to combat violations of humanitarian law and to bring justice to those guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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Margaret Anstee, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, will be in New York on 10 and 11 December. United Nations official announced today that the Secretary-General had asked Miss Anstee to visit Headquarters for consultations on the peace process in Angola and the United Nations involvement there.

As head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM), Miss Anstee oversaw the elections there at the end of September and has been involved since in efforts to halt hostilities and move the country towards the next step in establishing peaceful, democratic government.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to the International Conference on Nutrition meeting in Rome tomorrow, calls for an integrated approach to malnutrition, encompassing peace, security and development, "integrating our response so that cooperation and effectiveness, not only within the United Nations family but also beyond it, are maximized".

In his remarks to the meeting sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), Mr. Boutros-Ghali quotes the FAO s estimate that 800 million people are chronically undernourished although the world is quite capable of feeding all its people. "These are shameful facts, but rather than throwing up our hands in horror, we should be spurred to greater action", he says.

While the main responsibility for making food available to their people must rest with the countries themselves, international assistance remains critical for the prevention of hunger and malutrition. The United Nations system, he says, has a key role to play in mobilizing international awareness and concern and contributing to the overall effort.

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The International Conference, to be held from 5 to 11 December, will be attended by Ministers of Agriculture and Health from over 160 countries and will adopt a world declaration on nutrition and a plan of action designed to put nutrition at the forefront of development issues. Pope John Paul II will be the main speaker at tomorrow's opening session.

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In yet another message tomorrow to mark International Volunteer Day, the Secretary-General says the work of individuals will be crucially important in building new structures of international relations.

"The millions of unpaid volunteers across the world who give their time, skills and resources to others to improve the human condition", he says, demonstrate the value of cooperation and solidarity. As one example, he cites the work of the 500 United Nations volunteer specialists currently assisting the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), in preparing for the elections, contributing to development initiatives and restoring the country's health and education systems.

"They are an inspiring model for other committed professionals whose contribution, as volunteers, to peace and development is now so vital", he says.

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